

VDFP LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 3

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From the Executive Director

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision...it is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

(Andrew Carnegie)

Just having celebrated Public Service Week, the words of noted businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie serve as an appropriate beginning for this Logbook's Executive Director Message. From May 2nd - 8th state agencies across the Commonwealth of Virginia paused to highlight the achievements and contributions of their employees. We at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs also stopped our regular activities to thank the many persons who dedicate themselves to our agency mission of *"achieving excellence in everything we do."*

Through teamwork, VDFP is working toward a common vision of a safer Commonwealth. Teamwork and strong organizational goals fuel our commitment to you the stakeholders and customers, and galvanize our short and long term efforts. Through communications and public outreach, training and technical services and legislative affairs, we are tirelessly working to provide the best in fire and emergency services support to Virginia communities.

In my tenure as the Executive Director, I will continually seek ways to improve our services, and better respond to the needs of the fire service. It is my sincere desire that the efforts of the VDFP team will, in the words of Andrew Carnegie, produce *"uncommon results"* for our great Commonwealth.

Be Safe,



Aubrey W. "Buddy" Hyde, Jr.
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Meet the New Chief Deputy Director



On Monday, April 18, 2005 Scott V. Hechler began his tenure as the new Chief Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Hechler, who was appointed on April 4, 2005 by Governor Mark R. Warner, previously served with Chesterfield County Fire and EMS for more than 22 years.

"I am proud to have been a professional firefighter in Chesterfield County and will miss the daily interactions with those men and women I consider family", said Hechler. "But, I'm also thankful that Governor Warner has provided me this opportunity to serve the entire fire service community as a part of the outstanding team I now work with at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs."

During his fire service career in Chesterfield, Scott served the department in various capacities including Firefighter Recruit, Lieutenant, Assistant Fire Marshal, Captain, and Acting Battalion Chief. He was named Chesterfield's Firefighter of the Year in 1987. Scott and his family live in Powhatan, Virginia and he is also a Defensive Tactics Instructor and a Master Karate Instructor.

"I am truly excited to have Scott coming on board with VDFP," said VDFP Executive Director Buddy Hyde. "He brings a broad base of experience and an evident passion for the fire service that will be an asset to the agency's commitment to excellence in everything we do."

Scott has numerous fire and rescue certifications and during his career has served as a VDFP Adjunct Instructor, including instruction for the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy (VFMA) where he was also class president of his Basic Law Enforcement School under the VFMA. He recently completed requirements for the Bachelor's Degree in Labor, Safety, and Health from the National Labor College.

Caroline County Hosts 11th Annual Regional School

On April 24th and 25th, 2005, Caroline County Department of Fire and Rescue hosted their 11th Annual Spring Regional School at Caroline High School. Over the two day session nearly three hundred fire and rescue personnel participated in one of thirteen different training classes on topics ranging from rope rescue and fire arson detection, to basic instruction on the National Incident Management System. The courses offered at the Caroline County Regional School are a service of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

"Regional schools like this one provide a valuable service to members of the fire and rescue service community," said Division One Chief Tom Berry. "Because of VDFP's training programs, firefighters and rescue personnel have an opportunity to gain or refine the skills needed to effectively protect citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia."

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(Photo on right) A Virginia Department of Fire Programs Instructor discusses proper operation of farm machinery with Regional School students.



... Regional School

(continued from page 2)

According to Hanover County Fire Lieutenant Tommy Hicks, an adjunct instructor for the Farm Machinery Safety and Extrication course, many firefighters wouldn't be up to speed without the VDFP sponsored schools. "These training classes make sure firefighters are ready for whatever emergency or challenge that comes their way," said Hicks.

For more information on training classes offered by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, visit www.vafire.com/training.htm.

HTR Rescue Challenge

The Heavy and Technical Rescue Division of The Virginia Department of Fire Programs recently supported Rescue Challenge 2005, a five-day training exercise organized by Chesterfield Fire and EMS, Henrico Division of Fire and Hanover County Fire Department. Rescue Challenge tests the knowledge, preparedness and proficiency of Virginia heavy and technical rescue teams.

From May 2nd – 5th, a total of twenty teams drawn from fire departments, industrial organizations and military combat engineering forces, worked to complete six different challenges in areas like Confined Space Rescue and Vehicle Extrication. For details on the HTR training visit: www.vafire.com/htr.htm.

Public Education Directory

VDFP has organized an on-line directory of public fire and life safety educators throughout Virginia. The directory is arranged alphabetically by locality, and lists contact information for the fire safety/life safety educator. The directory also lists public education programs taught by each educator, as well as some additional information on traveling and abilities to teach other public education programs. Furthermore, the directory helps coordinate Public Educators with individuals seeking public fire and life safety education.

If you teach public fire/life safety and would like to add your information to the directory, please visit the website at: www.vafire.com/pubedcontacts.htm, or contact Kelli Turner at 804/ 371-0220 for more information.

VDFP FYI

SAFETY/TRAINING TIP

Preventing Training Injuries

REHAB OFTEN! Overexertion during training is the trigger for strains, sprains, dehydrations and heat-related injuries. The best policy for rehab during training is to rest often, over-hydrate, and make sure that students refuel (eat).

There is no set formula for the number of breaks an instructor should give. However, factors like weather, sun, exposure, physical effort and previous activity can all influence the frequency and duration of breaks.

PUBLIC EDUCATION TIP

Virginia Code on Grilling

307.5 Open-flame cooking devices.

Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One-and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

This prohibition is to help avoid the potential for hot embers from falling from the fire box onto the combustible surface such as a wooden deck or balcony. The 10 foot separation is required to lessen the chances of igniting combustible walls, and balcony above, in the event there's a flare-up from starting the cooking fire or from a grease accumulation. The exceptions are in recognition of the occupant's level of control and lack of exposure to others along with the added protection of sprinklers.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

Danville/Pittsylvania County Regional
Fire School
April, 30 - May 1, 2005
Danville, VA

2005 Ft. Pickett Wildland Fire Academy
May 10 -15, 2005
Blackstone, VA

2005 Pulaski Regional School
May 21 - 22, 2005
Pulaski, VA

June

2005 Virginia Fallen Firefighter
Memorial Service
Richmond Raceway Complex,
Horticulture Garden and Pavillion Bldg.
June 4, 2005
Richmond, VA

VFSB Meeting
June 3-4, 2005
Richmond, VA

SAFER GRANT APPLICATIONS

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants will begin on May 31, 2005 and continue through June 28, 2005.

The SAFER Grants provide funding for the hiring of fire personnel and incentives for volunteer recruitment and retention. Through the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2005, Congress provided \$715 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grants, with \$65 million of this funding specified for SAFER. Virginia is the only state which has first year matching monies for localities.

The applications are automated and will be accessible via www.firegrantsupport.com on May 31, 2005. Fire departments that have questions regarding these grant opportunities should contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov. To find out more information regarding this match please visit www.vafire.com or contact Christy King at 804/371-0220.